

BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

GRATTAN CROWE WOODSON, III, MD,
License No. 024889,
Respondent,

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DOCKET NO.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

NOV 07 2019

DOCKET NUMBER:
20200097

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER FOR INDEFINITE SUSPENSION

By agreement of the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Board") and GRATTAN CROWE WOODSON, III, MD. ("Respondent"), the following disposition of this disciplinary matter is entered pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-13-13, as amended.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

Respondent is licensed by the Board to practice medicine in the State of Georgia, and was so licensed at all times referenced herein.

2.

On or about March 15, 2019, the Board received a complaint in which allegations were raised concerning Respondent's professional boundaries with patient N.M., which included inappropriate comments of a sexual nature.

3.

The Board had previously investigated a complaint against Respondent in or about October of 2017, which involved an allegation of Respondent's pulling down female patient M.H.'s gown to expose her breasts when no breast exam was performed. Investigation showed that Respondent did not use chaperones when examining the breasts of female patients, in

violation of Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 360-3-.02(12). Respondent informed the Board that he changed his policy regarding the use of chaperones for breast exams.

4.

Based on the foregoing, the Board required Respondent to obtain a mental/physical examination from a Board approved provider, and provide the results to the Board.

5.

In or about August of 2019, Respondent obtained a mental/physical examination. During the examination, Respondent admitted to engaging in romantic, sexual relationships with two (2) female patients, "M." and "V.," which relationships were developed when the patients presented for medical appointments with Respondent.

As to patient "M.," the romantic relationship lasted for two months during which time Respondent continued her medical treatment; the patient terminated her medical treatment after the romantic relationship ended, but Respondent reported that they periodically text each other to the present date. As to patient "V.," Respondent reported the relationship developed during medical appointments with his gradual personal disclosures to the patient, and subsequent meeting outside the office for sexual contact, which occurred in November 2018. Respondent indicated he still wanted a romantic relationship with patient V., and stated he would remain her medical provider unless it was advised against. In addition, Respondent disclosed a prior romantic relationship with a current employee which occurred from the spring of 2018 to December 2018.

6.

The evaluation also showed that Respondent has a history of a severe alcohol use disorder. While Respondent reported intermittent use of alcohol, PEth testing ordered as part of the evaluation showed elevated levels. The evaluator opined that Respondent is in need of monitoring and treatment, and should demonstrate maintenance of sobriety and accountability before any consideration of a return to practice.

7.

The evaluation resulted in the opinion, with a reasonable degree of medical and psychiatric certainty, that Respondent is not able to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety. This opinion is based on Respondent's active alcohol use in the context of a history of severe alcohol use disorder and no current substance abuse treatment or monitoring; and Respondent's exhibiting escalating professional sexual misconduct demonstrated by his inappropriate comments, and boundary violations with an employee and two patients. The evaluators indicated that in addition, due to his personality pathology, Respondent is in a high-risk category for future boundary crossings and violations.

8.

Respondent admits the above findings of fact and waives any further findings.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's conduct, if proven, constitutes sufficient grounds for the imposition of discipline upon his license to practice as a physician in the State of Georgia under O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapters 1 and 34, as amended. Respondent hereby waives any further conclusions of law with respect to the above-styled matter.

ORDER

The Board, having considered all the facts and circumstances of this case, hereby orders, and Respondent hereby agrees, that the following sanctions shall be imposed upon Respondent's license to practice as a physician in the State of Georgia:

1.

Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Georgia shall be indefinitely suspended commencing on the effective date of this Consent Order for Indefinite Suspension. During the period of suspension, the Respondent shall not use the title, Physician, Doctor or "M.D.;" or otherwise engage in the practice of medicine as defined in O.G.G.A. § 43-34-21(3), including, but not limited to, assisting, directing, consulting, advising, or teaching, regarding patient medical care. The Respondent is entitled to renew Respondent's license during the period of suspension. Failure to renew shall result in revocation of Respondent's license by operation of law.

2.

Respondent may petition for lifting of the suspension when he can demonstrate compliance with the following for at least one year: (a) that he has completed intensive, outpatient psychiatric treatment to target both his personality disorder and multiple significant boundary issues. Treatment must be provided by a multidisciplinary team, approved by the Board, with expertise on treating patients with professional sexual misconduct and personality disorders; (b) that he has completed intensive, outpatient treatment for alcohol use disorder with providers or a facility approved by the Board; such treatment shall include, but not be limited to, group therapy, 12 step program, individual therapy, and random drug screens to ensure treatment compliance; and (c) that Respondent has completed a board approved course in prescribing and

has ceased providing his own medical treatment, and that a psychiatrist is prescribing any needed medications. The prescribing course shall be in addition to any continuing medical education required for license renewal. Respondent's petition shall also include letters of advocacy from his treating physician(s) and program directors that Respondent is able to return to the practice of medicine with reasonable skill and safety.

3.

In considering whether to lift the suspension, the Board shall have the authority to review the entire investigative file(s) and all relevant evidence, including but not limited to, the status of Respondent's clinical skills. The Board shall also have the authority to order any additional investigation that may be required in order to determine whether Respondent is competent to practice with reasonable skill and safety. Additionally, the Board may require the Respondent to provide the results of a re-evaluation by a Board approved provider.

4.

The period of indefinite suspension shall last unless and until the Board, in its sole discretion, lifts the suspension in writing. Should the Board lift the suspension, it may do so by consent order, which places Respondent's license to practice medicine under such terms and conditions as the Board deems necessary to ensure that Respondent may practice with reasonable skill and safety to the public. The Respondent may be required to meet with the Board, or a committee thereof, should the Board consider the lifting of the indefinite suspension. Lifting of Respondent's suspension shall be within the sole discretion of the Board. If Respondent's petition should be denied, Respondent may submit another petition no sooner than one (1) year following the Board's denial of Respondent's prior petition. Respondent's petition shall not constitute a contested case.

5.

Respondent shall abide by all state and federal laws regulating the practice of medicine, the Rules and Regulations of the Board, and the terms and conditions of this Consent Order. If Respondent shall fail to abide by such laws, rules, terms or conditions of this Consent Order, or if it should appearing from reports, inspections or other information submitted to the Board that Respondent is otherwise unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients, Respondent's license shall be subject to further discipline, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof after notice and hearing; and if revoked, the Board in its discretion may determine that the license should be permanently revoked and not subject to reinstatement.

6.

This Consent Order and dissemination thereof shall be considered a PUBLIC REPRIMAND of Respondent by the Board.

7.

Respondent also understands that pursuant to O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapter 34A, the contents of this order shall be placed on Respondent's Physician Profile. Furthermore, by executing this Consent Order, Respondent hereby agrees to permit the Board to update the Physician's Profile reflecting this Consent Order.

8.

Respondent acknowledges that Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands its contents. Respondent understands that Respondent has the right to a hearing in this matter and freely, knowingly and voluntarily waives that right by entering into this Consent Order. Respondent understands and agrees that a representative of the Department of Law may be present during the Board's consideration of this Consent Order and that the Board shall have the

authority to review the investigative file and all relevant evidence in considering this Consent Order. Respondent further understands that this Consent Order will not become effective until approved and docketed by the Board. Respondent understands that this Consent Order, once approved and docketed, shall constitute a public record, evidencing disciplinary action by the Board that may be disseminated as such. However, if this Consent Order is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding, or prejudice the right of the Board to adjudicate this matter. Respondent hereby consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein.

Approved this 7th day of November, 2019.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

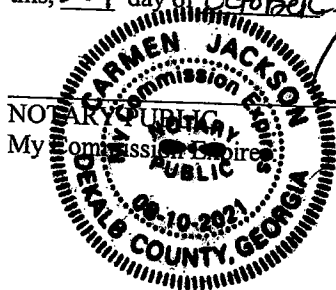


BY: Gretchen Collins MD
GRETCHEN COLLINS, M.D.
Chairperson

ATTEST: Lasharn Hughes
LASHARN HUGHES, MBA
Executive Director

CONSENTED TO: Grattan Crowe Woodson
GRATTAN CROWE WOODSON, III, MD
Respondent

AS TO THE SIGNATURE OF
GRATTAN CROWE WOODSON, III, MD:
Sworn to and subscribed before me
this, 29 day of October, 2019.



Carmen Jackson

#1129362